

***In the Claims:***

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A ~~[[body]]~~ component according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8 wherein said thickness is no more than 1 mm.
3. (Currently amended) A ~~[[body]]~~ component according to claim 2 wherein said thickness is no more than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently amended) A ~~[[body]]~~ component according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8 wherein the silver extends along grain boundaries of the ~~[[material]]~~ ceramic.
- 6-7. (Canceled)
8. (Original) A component formed of steel having a surface layer of alumina, chromia or alumina-rich or chromia-rich fully dense ceramic, said layer having been rendered electrically conductive through its thickness by the incorporation of silver into the layer.
9. (Original) A component according to claim 8 wherein the silver has been incorporated into the layer after the layer has been formed on the steel.
10. (Original) A component according to claim 8 wherein the layer has been formed by surface oxidation of the steel.

11. (Original) A component according to claim 8 which is a component for a fuel cell assembly.

12. (Original) A component according to claim 11 which is a bipolar plate.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ 21 wherein the silver-containing material is an alloy of silver.

16-20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A method of forming a steel component with a heat-resistant and electrically conductive surface layer, said method including selecting a steel which forms an alumina, chromia or alumina-rich or chromia-rich fully dense surface layer in oxidising atmosphere, placing a silver-containing material in contact with the surface of the steel, heating the steel and silver-containing material to at least 750°C in an oxidising atmosphere to cause said surface layer to form on the steel and to cause silver from said silver-containing material to occur in and create electrically conductive pathways through the layer.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the steel has an aluminum content of above 4.5 wt%.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the silver-containing material is at least commercially pure silver.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the silver-containing material is in the form of a sheet, a mesh or a paste.

25. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 21 wherein said heating is to at least 800° C. ~~[[, more preferably at least 850° C, even more preferably at least 900° C and most preferably at least 950° C.]]~~
26. (New) A method according to claim 21 wherein said heating is to at least 850° C.
27. (New) A method according to claim 21 wherein said heating is to at least 900° C.
28. (New) A method according to claim 21 wherein said heating is to at least 950° C.